Emission cuts

1658. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has initiated moves to impose additional tariffs on goods from countries like India that do not take on commitments to cut their greenhouse gas emissions;

(b) whether WTO has commented that trade concerns should be subjugated to climate change issues; and

(c) whether India is not obligated to undertake any mandatory emission cuts under the existing UN convention on climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The US has proposed a legislation entitled 'American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009' which aims, *inter alia*, to reduce global pollution and transition to a clean energy economy. The proposed legislation has a provision for imposition of 'border adjustment' measures. Under these measures, foreign manufacturers and Importers including those from India would be required to pay for and hold special allowances to cover the carbon contained in US-bound products with a view to ensure that US manufacturers are not put at a disadvantage relative to overseas competitors.

(b) WTO, along with UNEP, has recently published a report titled 'trade and climate change' which states that more open trade will most likely lead to increased emissions which may not be fully offset by the change in the emissions caused by improvements or changes in the 'composition' and 'technique' of output. Although, the report does not say that trade concerns should be subjugated to climate change issues, it mentions that climate change can lead to shifts in the pattern of international trade based on comparative advantage of countries.

(c) All developing countries included India have no obligation under the UN convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol to make any mandatory emission cuts.

National plan on air pollution

†1659. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a nationwide plan to check air pollution and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government plans to set up CNG filling stations, along all the national highways to contain air pollution and if so, the targeted time for completion of this project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.